

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 DODE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 EUR-12

H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01

PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 NSC-05 BIB-01 OES-03 FEA-01 (ISO) W

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R 091200Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2541

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E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: PARM, CE

SUBJ: SRI LANKA POSITION ON NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

REF: STATE 037797

1. IN FIRST OF TWO DISCUSSIONS OF NPT EMBOFF HELD WITH MDFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR UNITED NATIONS AND CONFERENCES DIVISION, KATHIRAMALAINATHAN STATED THAT GSL HAS NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO RATIFY. HE SAID MDFA IS STILL PONDERING PROPER RECOMMENATION TO CABINET ON THIS QUESTION. AT END OF MARCH 20 MEETING EMBOFF ASKED HIM TO DISCUSS WITH APPROPRIATE SENIOR OFFICIALS AND SEEK CLOSER DEFINITION OF GSL PLANS.

2. DURING APRIL 8 MEETING MDFA OFFICIAL SAID HE HAD RAISED ISSUE BUT WAS NOT ABLE TO GO BEYOND HIS PREVIOUS REMARKS. AFTER DISCUSSION OF FORTHCOMING MAY 5 REVIEW CONFERENCE AND ADVANTAGES OF EARLY RATIFICATION, EMBOFF PROBED REASONS FOR GSL UNCERTAINTY. MDFA OFFICIAL EVENTUALLY PRODUCED UNEASY REPLY THAT GSL HAS TO CONSIDER POSITION OF LARGER NORTHER NEIGHBOR WHICH GIVES NO APPEARANCE OF WANTING TO SIGN NPT. HE SAID GSL VIEWS NEIGHBOR'S ATTITUDE

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AS MAJOR FACTOR IN HIS OWN CONSIDERATION OF RATIFICATION. HE

NOTED LAOS THAT NPT IS NOT SEEN AS PRIORITY ISSUE BY MDFA.
HE SAID GSL IS CONSIDERING SENDING MEMBER OF ITS GENEVA
MISSION TO MAY REVIEW CONFERENCE DESPITE INABILITY TO PARTICI-
PATE FULLY. HE ADDED HE HAD CONVEYED USG POSITION OULIHED
REFTEL TO SENIOR LEVELS OF MDFA.

3. COMMENT: BASED ON KATHIRAMALAINATHAN'S REMARKS, EMBASSY
SEES NO POSSIBILITY GSL WILL RATIFY IN TIME FOR MAY CONFERENCE.
IT SEEMS CLEAR GSL WILL FOLLOW INDIAN LEAD ON THIS ISSUE UNLESS
SUBSTATNTIVE ADVANTAGES, NOT NOW APPARENT TO GSL, DEVELOP IN
FAVOR OF RATIFICATION.
VAN HOLLEN

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